

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

UNCLAS NATO 04708

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. PRESS AND TO
NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE REPS RABI AND NIERENBERG

DEPT ALSO FOR OES/ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK; IO:ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MAYNES; AND EUR: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, NATO
FUZNATO SCIENCE-PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED FUNDING

REFERENCE:STATE 122938, B. USNATO 3907, C. STATE 67701,
D. USNATO 2080

1. WE APPRECIATE CONSTRAINTS DEPARTMENT FACES WHEN
CONSIDERING BUDGETARY INCREASES FOR NATO SCIENCE
PROGRAMS. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, MISSION'S DUTY
IS TO SPEAK OUT CLEARLY FOR PROGRAMS WE CONSIDER TO
BE OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES. AS WE
OUTLINED IN REF B, WE BELIEVE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMS
ARE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT. WE ARE
CONCERNED, MOREOVER, THAT THESE PROGRAMS ARE BEING
SEVERELY HOBbled BY EROSION OF THEIR BUDGETS AND
CONSEQUENT DEVALUATION OF THE GRANTS AND PROJECTS
FUNDED.

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2. IN OUR VIEW, DEPARTMENT SHOULD REQUEST THE TASK
FORCE WE RECOMMENDED IN REF D TO MAKE A FRESH EVALUATION
OF THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM. DEPARTMENT SHOULD THEN
TAILOR OUR SCIENCE COMMITTEE BUDGET PROPOSAL TO MATCH
THE CONTRIBUTIONS ITS PROGRAMS SHOULD MAKE TO WESTERN
SCIENCE RATHER THAN ALLOWING BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS
ALONE TO CONTROL RIGIDLY THE RESOURCES WE COMMIT.

3. IN REF B, WE WERE INVITING DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR, TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE INITIATIVES U.S. COULD PROPOSE IN CONNECTION WITH SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN APRIL 1978. THUS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ USNATO 3907 IN THE LIGHT OF REFERENCES IT CITED (USNATO 2080 AND 2473), WHICH FOCUSED ON WAYS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT APPROACH THE ANNIVERSARY. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT IN OUR ACTION REQUEST WE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A "PROPOSAL CALLING ON THE ALLIES TO INCREASE JOINTLY THE FUNDING OF THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE." WE DID NOT ENVISAGE THAT THE U.S. ALONE WOULD BEAR THE BURDEN OF AN INCREASED BUDGET BUT THAT THE U.S. WOULD ASSUME ITS NORMAL POSITION OF LEADERSHIP ON SUCH ISSUES.

4. THE VERY PROMPT RESPONSE IN REF A DISAPPOINTED US SINCE IT SEEMED TO SUGGEST LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE ABOUT THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S VERY REAL AND FAR-REACHING BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AND TO CONSIDER THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY TO HELP SOLVE THEM. WE SUBMIT THAT THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM IS AT A CROSSROADS: IF IT WARRANTS CONTINUATION, WE BELIEVE AN INFUSION OF FRESH FUNDS WILL BE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN ITS EFFICACY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: RECONSIDERATION OF REF A
IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING COMMENTS.BENNETT
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